



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 January 1968



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Canadians to Hanoi:

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In a public statement on the 19th, Prime Minister Pearson revealed that Ormond Dier, senior Canadian delegate on the ICC

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had gone to Hanoi. His purpose, Pearson said, was to investigate Foreign Minister Trinh's "will talk" statement of 29 December.

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Although Hanoi is being careful to make sure that its intentions are not distorted, the North Vietnamese are continuing to publicize their "will talk" offer. The North Vietnamese ambassador in Cairo, for example, lost no time in calling on the Egyptian Foreign Ministry shortly after his return to Cairo from Hanoi. A press release on 20 January described the ambassador as just having returned from important consultations with his government on the present situation in Vietnam and the "possibility of talks between the North Vietnamese and the US."

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Problems for the British: Increasing restrictions and harassments are greatly reducing the usefulness of the British Consulate in Hanoi, according to information passed to the US Embassy in London by the British Foreign Office. Any kind of travel by the two officers at the mission has been severely limited. They are prohibited from going to the foreign community center, and their limited gasoline ration prevents them from going to the airport. The British also cannot use the North Vietnamese telegraph to send encrypted messages, although they can use the Canadian diplomatic pouch.

Despite these limitations, the US Embassy in London feels that, as long as the consul general is able to make use of the Canadians to get his reports out, the British will maintain the mission.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Eartha Kitt: Hanoi's initial comment on remarks made by Eartha Kitt at a recent White House luncheon was contained in an English language broadcast on 21 January. The broadcast quoted Western news reports in claiming that Miss Kitt "angrily pointed a finger at President Johnson's wife and delivered an emotional tirade against the US war in Vietnam." The broadcast claimed that "only the shrill voice of anger and discord was heard." The Hanoi statement contained no comment of its own.

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More on the State of the Union: Hanoi in a broadcast yesterday claimed that the "more of the same" kind of obstinacy about the war in the President's State of the Union address had been strongly condemned by public opinion in the US. The broadcast quoted an American Broadcasting Company television commentary which claimed the speech meant "another year of troubles for the Americans." Roger Hilsman in a National Broadcasting Company interview was quoted as saying that the message "gave rise to deception, and that what we need in Vietnam is a radical change of policy." Finally,

John Kenneth Galbraith's statement that he was "greatly disappointed by Johnson's message" and Senator Vance Hartke's claim that he "did not see any prospects for a settlement of our problems" were reported.

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Antiwar Activity: Hanoi on Saturday reported on several groups in the US which are opposed to US involvement in Vietnam. Members of the Hawaii Committee to End the US War in Vietnam, for example, are said to have sent a message to the Liberation Front expressing their militant solidarity with the Front, and stating that the committee's stand is to demand an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam. The students at Harvard University were reported to have sent a message to the President demanding an end to the war. Several antidraft activities were also reported without comment in the broadcast.

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